



### How did the “Rooster” get its start?

The rooster's history extends over three-quarters of a century and was definitively linked to the Walloon Movement. Addressed for the first time on October 2, 1905 during a meeting of the Walloon League of Liège, the question of adoption of a Walloon flag motivated several debates. The adoption of the symbol of the rooster, proposed by a correspondent (Paul Gahide) of the newspaper *Le Réveil Wallon* in the release of December 19, 1907, was accepted by the Walloon circles and finally, on 20 April 1913, by the Walloon Assembly.

The painter Pierre Paulus (1881-1959) was solicited by Paul Pastur, and work was officially adopted on July 3, 1913 by a commission of artists. Since then, the rooster has been indisputably recognized in all circles as the straightforward symbol of Wallonia. The rooster was adopted as the emblem of the French-speaking community of Belgium on July 28, 1975, then by decree of the Walloon Parliament on July 15, 1998.

The rooster is called a "coq hardi" (bold cock). The flag of Wallonia is a red rooster on a yellow background. The Walloon cock faces the hoist and is distinguished from the French cock by two features: the raised right leg; and the closed beak. The rooster shows the kinship of the Walloons to the French (Gallic) rooster, which is singing, head up and beak open. The flag is used by both the French Community and the Walloon Region. The glorious history of the Principality of Liege provided inspiration for the yellow and red colors.